



Press Release

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State Environmental Protector Visit Central Valley Cal/EPA Secretary Alan C. Lloyd Holds Town Hall Meeting

In an effort to listen to the concerns of residents and businesses in the Central Valley, California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary, Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D. conducted a town hall meeting at the Modesto Conference Center in Modesto today. Secretary Lloyd was joined by the Secretary of the Resources Agency, Michael Chrisman and Secretary for Food and Agriculture Department, A.G. Kawamura as well as the executive officers from the six boards, departments and offices that make up the Cal/EPA.

"The Central Valley is an important part of the California economy and protecting its environment is critical in sustaining the farming and agriculture industry," said Secretary Lloyd. "Governor Schwarzenegger believes strongly in the health and well being of the Central Valley's environment for the future of California and I will ensure the concerns and questions are being heard from both residents and businesses."

The Secretary had invited a host of community, industry and business leaders to participate in the town hall, each bringing a different perspective to the Central Valley environmental needs. Speakers and panel members represented the Manufacturers Council of the Central Valley, the Trust for Public Land, the City of Oakdale, the California Rural Legal Assistance, Merced College, Western United Dairymen, the Public Policy Institute of California, the Great Valley Center, the Latino Issues Forum, the California Building Industry Association-Central California, the City of Turlock, the Nisei Farmers League, and the California Citrus Mutual.

The town hall will include a discussion on the environmental aspects of the Governor's June 24th announcement of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. Cal/EPA is a part of the new partnership to build an effective relationship between state and local government in California to address the critical "quality of life" issues facing the Central Valley region.

Secretary Lloyd will also highlight the Governor's 2005-2006 Environmental budget that was recently passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor. Budget discussions will include funding for the California Hydrogen Highway, Governor Schwarzenegger's Climate Change Initiative, the Carl Moyer Program and School Bus Retrofits.

The Central Valley Town Hall, sponsored by The Great Valley Center, is the second in a series of town hall meetings Cal/EPA is planning on conducting. The first town hall in San Diego began the series in May. The next town hall is still being discussed and will be announced soon.

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) was created in 1991 by Governor's Executive Order. The six Boards, Departments and Office were placed within the Cal/EPA "umbrella" to create a cabinet level voice for the protection of human health and the environment and to assure the coordinated deployment of State resources. Our mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality.

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